UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _01 June 2006_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _20-37_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _20-37_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _01 June 2006_ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _01 June 2006_.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-37 are pending in this application. Claims 1-19 are cancelled by a preliminary

amendment filed 6/1/2006. Claims 20-37 are presented for examination.

Claim Objections

2.   Claims 35 and 36, are objected to for an apparent typing error "rereceiving" is recited.

Appropriate corrections are required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3.   **Claims 20-21, 24, 29,31-32, and 35-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being**

anticipated by Deshpande et al., (A Real-Time Interactive Virtual Classroom Multimedia

Distance Learning System, IEEE Transactions on multimedia, Vol. 3, No. 3, December

2001), hereinafter Deshpande.

4.   Regarding claim 20, Deshpande discloses an information processing device capable of

sharing an image with another information processing device belonging to a same group as that

of the information processing device, the information processing device comprising:

        an image storage section operable to store image information, (fig. 2, Live Class Server,

page 433). It is inherence for a computer to have a storage section operable to store image

information.

        a transmission section operable to transmit to a server, (central multipoint control unit,

col. 2, line 20, page 432), a whole or a part of the image information, ("video, audio, and slides",

col. 2, lines 20-21, page 433), stored in the image storage section, (col. 1, lines 7-10, page 434).

        an information retention section operable to retain information concerning the group

which the information processing device belongs to and information concerning a sub group

which is set up between the information processing device and at least one information

processing device belonging to the same group as that of the information processing device,

(col. 1, lines 11-20, page 435),

        a reception section operable to receive, from the server, shared image information

concerning image information to be shared by all information processing devices belonging to

the same group, the image information to be shared having been specified by the server based

on the whole or the part of the image information, (col. 2, lines 12-22, page 435, fig. 9, page

439),

        a display section operable to display an image in accordance with the shared image

information received by the reception section, (fig. 4, page 435),

        an operation instruction section operable to provide the server with an instruction in

accordance with an operation performed by a user on the image displayed on the display

section, (col. 1, lines 7-10, page 434, col. 1, lines 1-10, page 435, it is inherent that the

instruction has to go through the server, "central multipoint control unit", fig. 6d, page 437, when the user performs the operation).

a control section operable to execute interactive image viewing with another information processing device which belongs to the same group and with which the sub group is set up, by using the shared image information received by the reception section, (fig. 4, page 435, col. 1, lines 1-20, page 435), the shared image information being specified by the server at any time in accordance with an operation performed by a user of any information processing device that belongs to the same group, (fig. 6d, page 437, col. 1, lines 7-10, page 434).

5.   Regarding claim 31, Deshpande discloses an information processing system allowing a plurality of information processing devices belonging to a same group to share an image via a server, wherein

each of the plurality of information processing devices comprises:

an image storage section operable to store image information, (fig. 2, "Live Class Server", page 433). It is inherence for a computer to have a storage section operable to store image information;

a transmission section operable to transmit to a server, ("central multipoint control unit", col. 2, line 20, page 432), a whole or a part of the image information, ("video, audio, and slides", col. 2, lines 20-21, page 433), stored in the image storage section, (col. 1, lines 7-10, page 434, col. 2, lines 21-25, page 434);

an information retention section operable to retain information concerning the group, which the information processing device belongs to and information managed by the server concerning a sub group set up between two or more information processing devices among the

plurality of information processing devices belonging to the same group, (col. 1, lines 11-20,

page 435),

a reception section operable to receive shared image information from the server, (col.

2, lines 12-22, page 435, fig. 9, page 439);

a display section operable to display an image in accordance with the shared image

information received by the reception section, (fig. 4, page 435);

an operation instruction section operable to provide the server with an instruction in

accordance with an operation performed by a user on the image displayed on the display

section, (col. 1, lines 7-10, page 434, col. 1, lines 1-10, page 435, it is inherent that the

instruction has to go through the server, "central multipoint control unit", fig. 6d, page 437, when

the user performs the operation).

a control section operable to control image viewing by the device, (col. 1, lines 1-10,

page 435), the server comprises:

a server reception section operable to receive the image information from at least one of

the plurality of information processing devices, (col. 1, lines 7-10, page 434, fig. 6, page 437);

a server image storage section operable to store the image information received by the

server reception section, ("the MCU receives this unicast data from the LCS", col. 1, lines 8-9,

page 434);

an information management section operable to manage information concerning the

plurality of information processing devices belonging to the same group, (col. 1, lines 13-20,

page 435)

a server control section operable to specify, in accordance with the operation performed

by the user and based on the image information stored in the server image storage section,

image information to be shared by the plurality of information processing devices, (col. 1, lines

7-10, page 434, col. 2, lines 12-22, page 435, fig. 9, page 439); and

a server transmission section operable to transmit, to the plurality of information

processing devices, the shared image information concerning the image information which has

been specified by the server control section, (page 434, col. 2, lines 12-22, page 435, fig. 9,

page 439);

the control sections of the information processing devices, between which the sub group

is set up and which are among the plurality of information processing devices, execute

interactive image viewing among the plurality of information processing devices by using the

shared image information which is specified by the server at any time in accordance with the

operation performed by the user, the shared image information being received by the reception

section, (col. 1, lines 1-20, page 435).

6.   Regarding claim 35, Deshpande discloses an information processing method executed

by an information processing device capable of sharing an image with another information

processing device belonging to a same group as that of the information processing device, (col.

1, lines 1-20, page 435), the method comprising steps of:

transmitting to a server, ("central multipoint control unit", col. 2, line 20, page 432), a

whole or a part of image information, ("video, audio, and slides", col. 2, lines 20-21, page 433),

stored in the image storage section, (col. 1, lines 7-10, page 434, col. 2, lines 21-25, page 434);

receiving, from the server, (central multipoint control unit, col. 2, line 20, page 432),

shared image information concerning image information to be shared by all information

processing devices belonging to the same group, the image information to be shared having

been specified by the server based on the whole or the part of the image information, (col. 2,

lines 12-22, page 435, fig. 9, page 439);

displaying an image in accordance with the shared image information received at the

receiving step, (fig. 4b, page 435);

an operation instruction section operable to provide the server with an instruction in

accordance with an operation performed by a user on the image displayed on the display

section, (col. 1, lines 7-10, page 434, col. 1, lines 1-10, page 435, it is inherent that the

instruction has to go through the server, "central multipoint control unit", fig. 6d, page 437, when

the user performs the operation).

re-receiving the shared image information which is specified at any time by the server in

accordance with the operation performed by the user, ("the instructor will select an appropriate

slide URL at the server", col. 2, lines 22-23, page 434), and

updating and displaying the image in accordance with the shared image information

received at the re-receiving step, (col. 1, lines 1-20, page 435).

7.   Regarding claim 36, Deshpande discloses a computer-readable program for causing an

information processing device to execute an information processing method for sharing an

image with another information processing device belonging to a same group as that of the

information processing device, (col. 1, lines 1-20, page 435), the program comprising steps of:

transmitting to a server, ("central multipoint control unit", col. 2, line 20, page 432), a

whole or a part of image information, ("video, audio, and slides", col. 2, lines 20-21, page 433),

stored in the image storage section, (col. 1, lines 7-10, page 434, col. 2, lines 21-25, page 434);

receiving, from the server, (central multipoint control unit, col. 2, line 20, page 432),

shared image information concerning image information to be shared by all information

processing devices belonging to the same group, the image information to be shared having

been specified by the server based on the whole or the part of the image information , (col. 2,

lines 12-22, page 435, fig. 9, page 439);

displaying an image in accordance with the shared image information received at the

receiving step, (fig. 4b, page 435);

providing the server with an instruction in accordance with an operation performed by a

user on the image displayed at the displaying step, (col. 1, lines 7-10, page 434, col. 1, lines 1-

10, page 435, it is inherent that the instruction has to go through the server, "central multipoint

control unit", fig. 6d, page 437, when the user performs the operation).

re-receiving the shared image information which is specified at any time by the server in

accordance with the operation performed by the user, ("the instructor will select an appropriate

slide URL at the server", col. 2, lines 22-23, page 434), and

updating and displaying the image in accordance with the shared image information

received at the re-receiving step, (col. 1, lines 1-20, page 435).

8.   Regarding claim 21, Deshpande discloses an input section operable to input a feeling of

the user about an image displayed on the display section,

wherein the transmission section transmits, to another information processing device

belonging to the same group, feeling information corresponding to the feeling inputted into the

input section, (col. 1, lines 7-10, page 435)

9.   Regarding claim 24, Deshpande discloses the reception section downloads the shared

image information in accordance with URL information which is notified from the server, the

URL information indicating where the shared image information is stored, (col. 1, lines 21-24,

page 435, col. 2, lines 1-3, page 435).

10.   Regarding claim 29, Deshpande discloses an image input section operable to input the

image information, (fig. 2, page 433, fig. 3, page 434)

11.   Regarding claim 32, Deshpande discloses an input section operable to input a feeling of

a user about an image displayed on the display section, and transmits by using the transmission

section, to another information processing device belonging to the same group, feeling

information corresponding to the feeling inputted into the input section, (col. 1, lines 7-10, page

435).

12.   Claims 22-23, 26-28, 30, 33-34, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Deshpande as applied to claims 20-21, 29, and 31-32 above, in view of

Handbook for the Palm™ Tungsten™ T3 Handheld, (1998-2003 Palm, Inc.) hereinafter

Tungsten T3, and further in view of PalmOne Tungsten T3 Update, hereinafter "Update".

13.   Regarding claim 22, Deshpande does not disclose a direct communication section

operable to directly transmit to at least one information processing device belonging to the sub

group, without involving the server, an image to be shared only within the sub group.

       Tungsten T3 discloses a direct communication section operable to directly transmit to at

least one information processing device belonging to the sub group, without involving the

server, an image to be shared only within the sub group, ("Sending data using Bluetooth

communication", page 32).

At the time of the invention (see Update), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Deshpande and the teachings of Tungsten T3 to create an information processing device capable of sharing an image when the server is not available.

14.   Regarding claim 23, Deshpande does not disclose a direct communication section operable to directly transmit, without involving the server, the feeling information to at least one information processing device belonging to the sub group.

Tungsten T3 discloses a direct communication section operable to directly transmit, without involving the server, the feeling information to at least one information processing device belonging to the sub group, ("Sending data using Bluetooth communication", page 32).

At the time of the invention (see Update), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Deshpande and the teachings of Tungsten T3 to create an information processing device capable of sharing feeling information when the server is not available.

15.   Regarding claim 26, Deshpande does not disclose the operation instruction section is a touch panel.

Tungsten T3 discloses the operation instruction section is a touch panel, ("tap beam", page 126).

At the time of the invention (see Update), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Deshpande and the teachings of Tungsten T3 to create an information processing device which allows the user to perform the operation on the touch panel.

16.   Regarding claim 27, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 26 above, in addition, Deshpande discloses the control section causes the display section to display a shared image and a menu image with which a user performs an operation on the shared image, (col. 2, lines 22-25, page 434, col. 1, lines 1-11, page 435).

        Tungsten T3 discloses the operation instruction section is provided on the display section, ("tap beam", page 126).

17.   Regarding claim 28, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 26 above, in addition, Tungsten T3 discloses the operation instruction section allows the user to perform an operation on a shared image by moving the user's finger on the operation instruction section, ("Elements of the handheld interface", page 13).

        At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to understand that the operation instruction section allows the user to perform an operation on a shared image by moving the user's stylus, pen and pencil on the operation instruction section. It can also to allow the user to perform an operation on a shared image by moving the user's finger on the operation instruction section.

18.   Regarding claim 30, Deshpande discloses the image input section inputs the image information when the image information has been inputted, and causes the image storage section to store the image information, (fig. 2, page 433, fig. 3, page 434);

        the transmission section transmits to the server the image information. (col. 1, lines 7-10, page 434).

Deshpande does not discloses the image input section inputs the attribute information indicating a time when the image information has been inputted, and causes the image storage section to store the attribute information; the transmission section transmits to the server the attribute information.

Tungsten T3 discloses the image input section, (receiving image from other devices, "beaming photo", page 126), inputs the attribute information indicating a time when the image information has been inputted, and causes the image storage section to store the attribute information, ("viewing a slide show", page 122);

the transmission section transmits to the server the attribute information, (transmit the images to other devices, "beaming photo", page 126, "viewing a slide show", page 122)

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Deshpande with the teachings of Tungsten T3 because when the user receives the image from the server, the user knows when the image was created.

19.   Regarding claim 33, Deshpande does not disclose the information processing device belonging to the sub group further comprises a direct communication section operable to directly communicate with another information processing device without involving the server, and directly transmits, to another information processing device belonging to the sub group, an image to be shared only within the sub group.

Tungsten T3 discloses the information processing device belonging to the sub group further comprises a direct communication section operable to directly communicate with another information processing device without involving the server, and directly transmits, to another information processing device belonging to the sub group, an image to be shared only within the sub group, ("Sending data using Bluetooth communication", page 32).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Deshpande and the teachings of Tungsten T3 to create an information processing device capable of sharing an image when the server is not available.

20.   Regarding claim 34, Deshpande does not disclose the information processing device belonging to the sub group further comprises a direct communication section operable to directly communicate with another information processing device without involving the server, and directly transmits, to another information processing device belonging to the sub group, the feeling information.

Tungsten T3 discloses the information processing device belonging to the sub group further comprises a direct communication section operable to directly communicate with another information processing device without involving the server, and directly transmits, to another information processing device belonging to the sub group, the feeling information, ("Sending data using Bluetooth communication", page 32).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Deshpande and the teachings of Tungsten T3 to create an information processing device capable of sharing a feeling information when the server is not available.

21.   Regarding claim 37, Deshpande discloses a transmission of the shared image information performed by the server transmission section or interactive image viewing among the plurality of information processing devices, (col1, lines 1-10, page 435).

Deshpande does not disclose after the operations is completed, the server control

section deletes image information by which the shared image information stored in the server

image storage section has been specified.

Tungsten T3 discloses after the operations is completed, the server control section

deletes image information by which the shared image information stored in the server image

storage section has been specified, ("delete a photo", page 123).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art

to combine the teachings of Deshpande and the teachings of Waites because the shared

images in the server cannot be accessed by third party after the operations completed.

22.   Claims 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Deshpande as applied to claims 20 and 24 above , in view of Waites, (US 6788769 B1).

23.   Regarding claim 25, Deshpande does not disclose the URL information is created based

on cellular phone numbers of all the information processing devices belonging to the same

group.

Waites discloses the URL information is created based on cellular phone numbers of all

the information processing devices belonging to the same group, (fig. 2, col. 6, lines 6-11).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art

to combine the teachings of Deshpande and the teachings of Waites to create a server which

can reduce a possibility of overlapping URL information.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YI CHEN whose telephone number is (571)270-3805. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nabil Elhady can be reached on 571-272-3963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Yi Chen
1/4/2008

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